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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 9 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is deeply concerned by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba that has persisted for over 55 years.

Unilateral and politically motivated restrictive measures are a long-standing practice applied by the United States against many sovereign States, as a means of punishing them for internal and external policies that are independent of Washington.

Despite the consolidated position of the international community on the need to lift the embargo against Cuba, as expressed in relevant General Assembly resolutions and in statements by parliaments around the world, the embargo against the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America continues. These actions by the United States of America towards a neighbouring independent State are entirely inconsistent with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and are in flagrant violation of human rights.

Some recent easing of the sanctions regime by the United States of America has not substantially altered the hegemonic policy of the White House and, to date, none of the United States legislation establishing the embargo has been repealed. Moreover, in September 2016, the United States embargo against the Republic of Cuba was extended.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation considers the immediate lifting of sanctions against Cuba to be an objective and long-overdue necessity. The unilateral economic pressure being imposed by the United States of America on the Republic of Cuba for political ends today is an unwarranted remnant of the past, a legacy of the Cold War. This practice has done tremendous damage to the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Cuba and other countries.

The continuation of sanctions contravenes the provisions of the General Assembly resolution of 25 September 2015 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which contains a direct call to all States to refrain from applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and that impede the achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation expresses its support for the people of the friendly Republic of Cuba, which

selflessly defends its sovereignty and inalienable right to choose its own development model.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation supports the appeal from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation addressed to the General Assembly, the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba and calls on the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and on international parliamentary organizations to demonstrate their solidarity and conviction that it is unacceptable, in relations between States, to use methods and means that flout the generally recognized principles and norms of international law.